Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listing, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): An NC machining assisting system eharacterized in that comprising: a plurality of NC machine tools each including NC program generating means and NC program improving and updating means that are connected to a central manager via a network; actual machining performance information is supplied to the central manager from the respective NC machine tools; the central manager generates a database on the basis of the collected actual machining performance information and stores the database therein; and the NC machine tools are each permitted to retrieve information necessary for machining from the database.

Claim 2 (Currently Amended): An NC machining assisting system eharacterized in that comprising: a plurality of NC machine tools each including NC program generating means and NC program improving and updating means that are connected to a central manager via a network; actual machining performance information is supplied to the central manager from the respective NC machine tools; the central manager generates a database on the basis of the actual machining performance information collected via the network and stores the database therein; and an apparatus other than the NC machine tools which has a network connecting function is permitted to retrieve information necessary for machining from the database through connection to the central manager via the network.



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Claim 3 (Currently Amended): An NC machining assisting system as set forth in claim 1 or 2, further characterized comprising in that the actual machining performance information includes at least one of workpiece information, tool information, cutting condition information, jig information, machine specification information, machining history information, machine operation history information, tool use history information and jig use history information.

Kothe